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# Four Seized in Plot on U.S. Shrines

## Blonde Held in 100G; Mounties Aid FBI

By EDWARD KIRKMAN, NORMA ABRAMS,  
ROBERT McDONALD and HENRY LEE

A hare-brained plot to bomb the Statue of Liberty—"that damed old bitch"—and the Liberty Bell and Washington Monument, too, was allegedly frustrated here yesterday in a series of arrests by the police and FBI working in cooperation with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. Three young Negro extremists and an attractive French-Canadian blonde were seized.

Thanks to a rookie cop who had infiltrated the madcap little terrorist group known as the Black Liberation Front, the authorities also seized 30 sticks of dynamite and three blasting caps which the blonde allegedly had smuggled from Canada overnight. The sticks, crystallizing at both ends, were highly volatile and dangerous.

The tri-city strike against America's most revered shrines of freedom was intended "to draw attention to the conditions of my race," Robert Steele Collier, 28, front leader and a clerk in the Main Public Library, was quoted as having told police.

### Held in \$100,000 Bail Each

In Bronx Criminal Court, Collier, who lives at 211 Eldridge St., was held in \$100,000 bail for hearing next Tuesday on a Sullivan Law charge of possessing the dynamite. He also will face federal charges, probably today, of conspiring to destroy government property.

The blonde, 28-year-old Michelle Duclos, Montreal TV personality who is well known in UN circles here, was held in \$100,000 bail by U.S. Commissioner Earle N. Bishopp for hearing Tuesday on the federal charge.

Held in \$50,000 each for simultaneous arraignment were Walter A. Fowe, 32, of 386 E. 10th St., a judo instructor at the Henry St. Settlement, and Khaleel S. Sayyed, 22, of 65 Pilling St., Brooklyn, a senior at the Howard University School of Engineering in Washington.

### Didn't Care About Life

The alleged plotters, called "pro Castro and pro Chinese Communist," according to Police Commissioner Murphy, seemed zany enough for the ministrations of the Bellevue Psychiatric Division, but Murphy underscored their potential danger.

"They did not care about loss of life," he said.

And, he added, "We know that they have made contact in other cities. We have no idea how many people might be involved."

At least two young men, said to have participated part of the way in the dynamite run from Canada, are being sought, and Murphy added that the authorities have an undisclosed number of names and addresses of additional suspects.

### Credits a Negro Cop

Murphy gave full credit to Patrolman Raymond Wood, a Negro who joined the department only 10 months ago. At a UN party, reportedly given by the Cuban delegation, Wood made contact with the group, gained Collier's confidence and "joined" the Liberation Front in December.

Collier said he had met Cuba's Che Guevara at the UN and was collecting technical books for the Cubans, which would be shipped South through the Cuban embassy in Canada.

### "Three-Man Teams"

"Collier stated that he is an extreme militant, far left of any existing groups, even the so-called Black Nationalist Militant Group," Murphy said.

"He indicated to our undercover man that he would like to destroy installations within the United States and he would like to train and equip three-man teams for the job, and they would contact demolition teams in Detroit and Canada.

"Collier further stated that they would have to make a trip to Canada before March to learn how to handle explosives. During January, he asked our undercover man to procure planks, nails and gasoline bottles for the purpose of teaching sabotage and to have this material on hand to carry out their aims."

Then, on Jan. 19, one of the alleged conspirators, Bowe, had the happy thought of blowing up the Statue of Liberty, Murphy said. Wood, going along with the plan, cased the Statue, as Bowe and Sayyed also did separately, it is charged.

### The Statue Scheme

Bowe then bought a souvenir reproduction of the statue and said the group could break the lock on the door leading to the arm and place the explosive so as to blast the head and arms off "that damned old bitch," Murphy reported.

"He stated that this is so easy 'we should split up and knock out the Liberty Bell in Philadelphia,'" Murphy said. "They also had a discussion concerning a simultaneous destruction of the Washington Monument, the Liberty Bell and the Statue of Liberty."

Early this month, Wood said, he accompanied Collier to Canada where they inquired about obtaining explosives. Presumably, contact was made with Miss Duclos, and the Mounties were alerted. The border patrol also was tipped off in advance to look the other way when dynamite came through.

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